

Disaster Response and the Law



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AIR FORCE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL SCHOOL

Agenda



- ◆ **Posse Comitatus**
- ◆ **National Defense Areas**
- ◆ **Environmental Laws**
- ◆ **Claims**

Posse Comitatus

- ◆ **Latin: "power or force of the county"**
- ◆ **Posse Comitatus Act**
 - **Originally enacted in 1878**
 - **Intended to insure military subordination to a strong civil authority**



Posse Comitatus Act

18 U.S.C. 1385

*“Whoever, except in cases and under circumstances **expressly authorized** by the Constitution or Act of Congress, willfully uses any part of the Army or Air Force as a posse comitatus or otherwise to execute the laws shall be fined under this title or imprisoned for not*

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Posse Comitatus Act

◆ Who

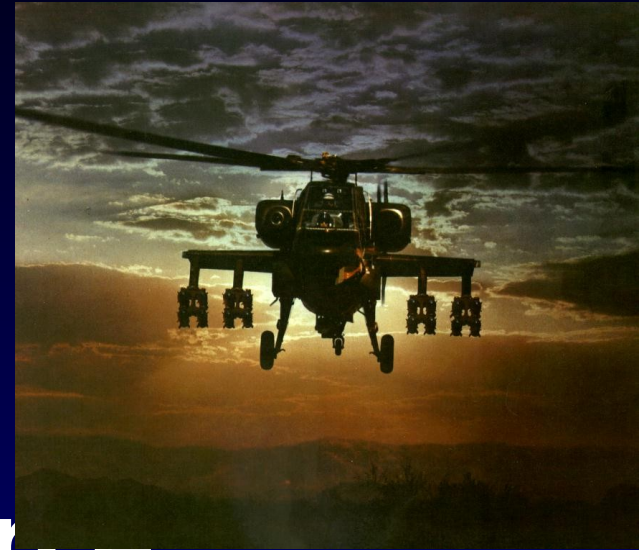
◆ What/When



Posse Comitatus Act

◆ Who

- Active duty Army
- Active duty Air Force



Posse Comitatus Act

Who?

- ◆ **Active duty Navy/Marines?**
 - **Courts: No**
 - **Congress: No, but . . .**
 - **1974, allowed amendment to die**
 - **1981, 10 USC § 375**



Posse Comitatus Act

Who?

◆ 10 USC § 375

- Directed SECDEF to prescribe regs to prohibit direct participation by a member of the **Army, Navy, Air Force, or *Marine Corps*** in a search, seizure, arrest, or other similar activity unless . . . authorized by law



Posse Comitatus Act

Who?

- ◆ **Reservists and National Guard?**
 - **Reservists: Yes, if on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty for training**
 - **National Guard: Yes, if in Federal status (Title 10)**

Posse Comitatus Act

What/When?

- ◆ Can not “execute the laws”
- ◆ Prohibits **direct assistance** to civilian law enforcement officials

Posse Comitatus Act

- ◆ **Regulation: DoDD 5525.5**
 - **Defines prohibited direct assistance as:**
 - **Interdiction**
 - **Search or seizure**
 - **Arrest, apprehension, stop and frisk**
 - **Surveillance/pursuit of personnel, undercover agents, informants, investigators, interrogators**

Civil Support

DoDD 3025.15

- ◆ **Governs all DoD military assistance to civil authorities**
- ◆ **Evaluation criteria for requests**
 - **Legality**
 - **Lethality**
 - **Risk**
 - **Cost**
 - **Appropriateness**
 - **Impact on Readiness**



Support to Law Enforcement Primary Concern

- ◆ **Potential violations of the
Posse Comitatus Act**

Support to Law Enforcement DoDD 5525.5

- ◆ **Exception to PCA allowing certain support to law enforcement**
 - **Sharing information**
 - **Loan of equipment and facilities**
 - **Maintenance and operation of equipment**

Expert Advice and Training

DoDD 5525.5

- ◆ **Training**

- Basic v. advanced military skills

- ◆ **Advice**

- Includes MWD team
 - WMD

- ◆ **Approval authorities**



Court Recognized Exception

Military Purpose Doctrine

- **DoDD 5525.5, encl. 4**
- **Actions taken for primary purpose of furthering a military or foreign affairs function of the US, regardless of incidental benefit to civilian authorities**

Court Recognized Exception

- ◆ **Military Purpose Doctrine**
 - **Investigations and other actions related to enforcement of the UCMJ**
 - **Protection of classified information or equipment**
 - **Protection of DoD personnel, DoD equipment, and official guests of the DoD**

Civil Disturbances



Civil Disturbances

◆ President's Authority:

- Constitution
 - Art. 4 § 4
- Insurrection Act
 - 10 U.S.C. §§ 331-335

◆ DoD Authority:

- 3025.15; 3025.12
- Exception to PCA
- DOJ in charge
- ASD/HD -- JDOMS



GARDEN PLOT

- ◆ **DOD Civil Disturbance Plan CONUS**
 - **Not a General Domestic Operation Plan**
- ◆ **Basis for Preparation, Deployment, and Redeployment**
- ◆ **CJCS SROE not Applicable**
- ◆ **Contains ROE--Use of Force, Arming Orders, Custody, Search and Seizure, Confinement, Riot Control Agents**

JTF-LA

◆ Troop Strength

- More than 6900 CANG were deployed
- More than 600 Marines were deployed
- 1850 soldiers from the 7thID were deployed

Counterdrug Support



Luis Acosta / AFP file

Counterdrug Support

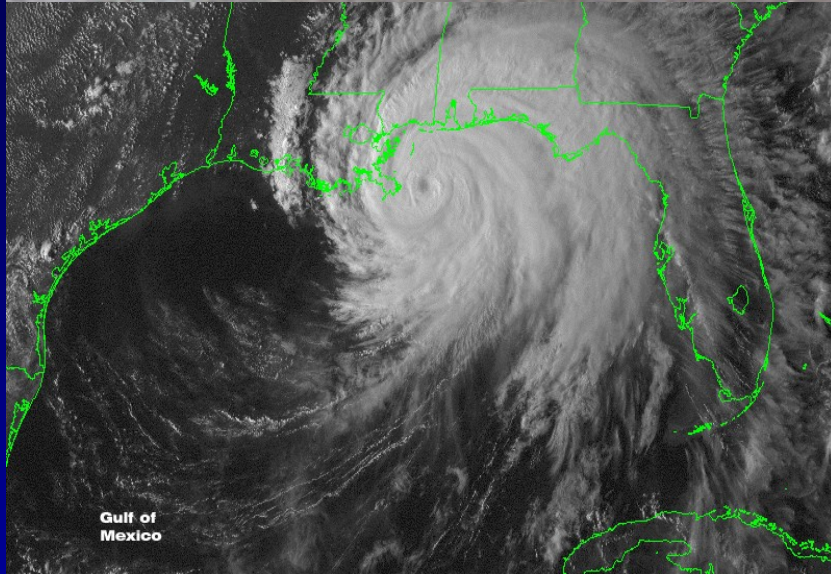
Counterdrug support

- **10 USC § 371- 381**
 - **Congressional intent to allow greater counterdrug support**
- **National Defense Authorization Act, FY 1991, Section 1004**
 - **Primary authority for support**
 - **Non-reimbursable**

Counterdrug Support

- ◆ **National Defense Authorization Act, FY 1991, Section 1004**
 - **Maintenance and repair of equipment**
 - **Transportation of personnel/supplies/equipment**
 - **Training**
 - **Detection and monitoring**
 - **Aerial and ground reconnaissance**

Disaster/Emergency



Military Disaster Support to Civil Authorities

- ◆ Likely to be humanitarian in nature
- ◆ US forces will likely be unarmed
- ◆ NG under state law unless federalized

“Major Disaster”

- ◆ NATURAL CATASTROPHE: including any hurricane, tornado, storm, high water, tidal, wave, earthquake, volcanic eruption,
- ◆ FIRE (regardless of cause)
- ◆ FLOOD, or (regardless of cause)
- ◆ EXPLOSION (regardless of cause)
- ◆ AND Damage of Sufficient Severity and Magnitude to Warrant Major Disaster Assistance



Precedents

- ◆ 1865 – Disaster Relief thru the Freedman's Bureau
- ◆ Late 1800's - Great Chicago Fire
- ◆ Late 1800's - Johnstown Flood
- ◆ Late 1800's - Charlestown Earthquake
- ◆ 1992 – Hurricane Andrew
- ◆ 1998 – New York Ice Storm
- ◆ Numerous deployments in support of domestic disaster relief missions

Authority to Provide Disaster Assistance

- ◆ Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1974
- ◆ Department of Defense Directives:
 - DoDD 3025.1 Military Support to Civil Authorities
 - DoD 3025.1-M Manual for Civil Emergencies
 - DoDD 3025.15 Military Assistance to CAs
 - Draft Joint Pub 3-07.7
- ◆ Service Regulations

Stafford Act

- ◆ 42 U.S.C. § 5121, et seq.
- ◆ **Primary legal authority** for federal govt to participate in domestic disaster relief.
- ◆ Applies in 50 States, DC, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, No. Mariana Islands, and Trust Territories of Pacific Islands
- ◆ FEMA's statutory basis for disaster relief
- ◆ **DoD has NO independent statutory basis to provide disaster assistance.**

Stafford Act

- ◆ Under Stafford Act, President may direct federal agencies, including DoD, to provide:
 - Personnel, equipment, supplies, facilities, and managerial, technical, and advisory services
- ◆ One of Three Scenarios:
 - Presidential Order to perform **emergency work** essential to preserve life and property
 - Presidential Declaration of a **major disaster**
 - Presidential Declaration of an **emergency**

Civil Response Process

DISASTER

Local first
responders
react

City requests
aid from state

Governor
requests PDD
through DHS

President
declares major
disaster or
emergency

DHS implements
Federal "National"
Response Plan

DHS
requests
DoD
support

Secretary of
Defense authorizes
DoD Support

USNORTHCOM
orders response
(when directed)

Service Regulations

- ◆ Air Force Instruction 10-802, Military Support to Civil Authorities
 - Implements DoDD 3025.1
 - Specific guidance on funding and reimbursement, reporting requirements, and establishes emergency priorities
 - Sets forth the immediate response authority of an installation commander

Operational Issues

- ❖ **Stafford Act is NOT an exception to**
 - **Traffic control points**
 - **Patrolling**
 - **Security at supply depots**
 - **Force protection**
- ❖ **Use of Force**
 - **Guidelines issued in mission order**
 - **Inherent right to self-**

Immediate Response Authority

- ◆ **Authority - 3025.15; 3025.1**
- ◆ **Authorizes local military commanders to take action to save lives, prevent human suffering, or mitigate great property damage**
 - **Imminently serious conditions**
 - **Time does not permit approval from higher HQ**

Immediate Response Authority

- ◆ **Support authorized**
 - **Rescue, evacuation, emergency treatment of casualties**
 - **Emergency restoration of power**
 - **Food distribution**

Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High-Yield Explosives Support



Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High-Yield Explosives Support

- ◆ JCS ConPlan 0500-98, *Military Assistance to Domestic Consequence Management Operations in Response to a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High-Yield Explosive Situation* (11 Feb 2002)
- ◆ Presumes units will deploy unarmed
 - Requires SecDef consultation with Attorney General to authorize arms
- ◆ Force protection is the responsibility of local law enforcement

National Defense Areas



- ◆ **Internal Security Act of 1950 (50 USC 797)**
- ◆ **DoDD 5200.8 (Apr 91)**
- ◆ **AFI 31-101, 3.5 (Dec99)**

When Are They Used?

- ♦ **To contain and secure resources on Non-federal lands within U.S.**
- ♦ **May be made necessary (examples)**
 - **Aircraft crashes**
 - **Emergency dispersal of aircraft to civilian airports**
- ♦ **Less discretion**
 - **Immobilized Nuke ground convoys**
 - **Special weapons involved**

NDAAs: Law Enforcement



- ◆ **Contact civilian law enforcement agency (CLEA)**
- ◆ **Request assistance:**
 - **Crowd control**
 - **Arrest & Apprehension**
- ◆ **If they refuse, we may detain**
- ◆ **Use of force may be an issue**
 - **Check AFI 31-207**



Overseas

- ◆ Authorities don't apply outside the U.S.
- ◆ SOFAs
- ◆ Bilateral Agreements

NATO STANAG 3531

◆ Para 14

- Military authority of occupying nation responsible for all measures taken when involves only their aircraft within limits of airfield

◆ Para 27

- Nation of occurrence responsible to guard scene throughout investigation & ensure undisturbed until safety investigation is complete

NATO STANAG 3531

◆ Para 27 (cont)

- If the operating nation provides guards to assist in securing the scene of the accident/incident, these guards shall abide at all times by the laws and regulations of the nation of occurrence

NATO STANAG 3531

◆ Para 9

- Nation of occurrence ultimately responsible for investigating accident

- ◆ U.S. under authority of Para 11 has reserved the right to conduct an independent safety investigation instead of convening a committee comprised of the involved nations

NATO STANAG 3531

◆ Para 16

- Communication with the press shall not be made without previous consultation between the two nations

- ◆ STANAG 3531 has not been ratified by all NATO members – signatories may have taken reservations – **ALWAYS** consult with JA before taking action off the installation

Claims



- ◆ **Injured parties**
- ◆ **Landowners**
- ◆ **Payments**
- ◆ **Admissions**
- ◆ **Pictures**

Claims in NATO

- ◆ Losses to local nationals are considered under the provisions of Article VIII of the NATO SOFA
- ◆ Losses to U.S. military and civilian personnel are considered under the military claims act as implemented by AFI 51-501

Environmental Issues



National Response Center

1-800-424-8802



Select a topic and click on the button to navigate through our site.

- ◆ **General concern will be about “releases”**
 - **Leaks, leaching, etc**
 - **Any UNPERMITTED releases**
- ◆ **Person in charge must report**
 - **detect, prevent, & abate a release**
- ◆ **CEV should be POC**

Liability



- ◆ **Civil liability**
 - **Monetary liability for the Air Force**
 - **“scope of employment”**
- ◆ **Criminal liability**
 - **CERCLA:**
 - **Failure to notify immediately after knowledge of release**
 - **False or misleading notification**
 - **Penalty: 5 years confinement and/or \$250,000 fine**
 - **EPCRA:**
 - **Violation of notification provision**
 - **Knowing and willful**
 - **Penalty: 5 years; \$50,000**

Environmental Issues Overseas

- ◆ Final Governing Standards – Combine U.S. and host nation standards to provide baseline for environmental compliance
- ◆ Extremely important to ensure coordination with CEV and JA to ensure proper notifications are made

Summary



- ◆ **Posse Comitatus**
- ◆ **National Defense Areas**
- ◆ **Environmental Laws**
- ◆ **Claims**

Questions?

